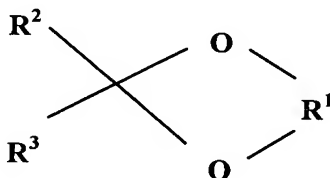


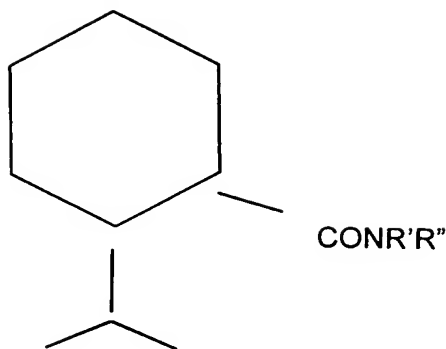
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An article suitable to be worn in contact with a mammal body, comprising a mint-odor free cooling agent able to convey a freshness sensation to the wearer of the article, without the need of modifying body surface temperature.
2. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The article according to claim 1, wherein the cooling agent is selected from the group consisting of ketals, carboxamides, cyclohexyl derivatives, cyclohexanol derivatives, camphor, borneol, eucalyptol, methyl salicylate, tea tree oil, eucalyptus oil, and mixtures thereof.
3. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The article according to claim 1, wherein the cooling agent is selected from the group consisting of:

a ketal according to the following formula:



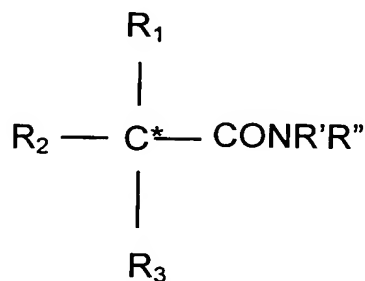
in which R¹ represents a C₂-C₆-alkylene radical having at least 1, but not more than 3, hydroxyl group(s), preferably 1 hydroxyl group, and either R² and R³ independently of one another represent C₁-C₁₀-alkyl which is optionally substituted by 1 to 3 radicals selected from the group comprising hydroxyl, amino and halogen (such as fluorine, chlorine, bromine or iodine), C₅-C₇-cycloalkyl, preferably cyclohexyl, C₆-C₁₂-aryl, preferably phenyl, with the proviso that the total of the C atoms of R² and R³ is not less than 3, or R² and R³ together represent an alkylene radical which, together with the carbon atom which carries the radicals R² and R³, forms a 5-7-membered ring, it being possible for this alkylene radical, in turn, to be substituted by C₁-C₆-alkyl groups, or mixtures thereof; or a carboxamide of the following formula:



(a)

wherein R' , when taken separately, is hydrogen or an aliphatic radical containing up to about 25 carbon atoms; R'' when taken separately is hydroxy, or an aliphatic radical containing up to about 25 carbon atoms, with the proviso that when R' is hydrogen R'' may also be an aryl radical of up to about 10 carbon atoms and selected from the group consisting of substituted phenyl, phenalkyl or substituted phenalkyl, naphthyl and substituted naphthyl, pyridyl; and R' and R'' , when taken together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, represent a cyclic or heterocyclic group of up to about 25 carbon atoms,

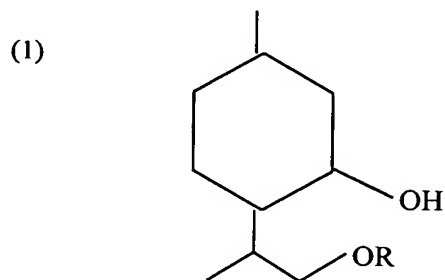
or (b)



wherein R' and R'' , when taken separately, are each hydrogen, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_5$ alkyl or $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_8$ hydroxyalkyl and provide a total of no more than 8 carbon atoms, with the proviso that when R' is hydrogen R'' may also be alkylcarboxyalkyl of up to about 6 carbon atoms; R' and R'' , when taken together, represent an alkylene group of up to about 6 carbon atoms, the opposite ends of which group are attached to the amide nitrogen atom thereby to form a nitrogen heterocycle, the carbon chain of which may optionally be interrupted by oxygen; R_1 is hydrogen or $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_5$ alkyl; and R_2 and R_3 are each $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_5$ alkyl; with the provisos that (i) R_1 , R_2 and R_3 together provide a total of at least 5 carbon atoms, preferably from about 5-

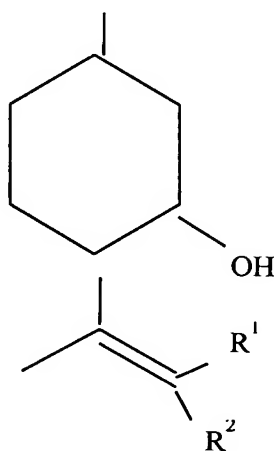
10 carbon atoms; and (ii) when R_1 is hydrogen, R_2 is C_2 - C_5 alkyl and R_3 is C_3 - C_5 alkyl and at least one of R_2 and R_3 is branched, preferably in an alpha or beta position relative to the carbon atom marked (*) in the formula, or a mixture thereof;

or a cyclohexanol derivative according to the following general formula:



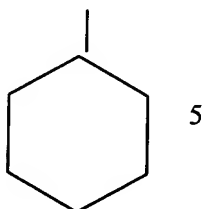
wherein R represents a linear or branched alkyl group having about 1 to about 5 carbon atoms,

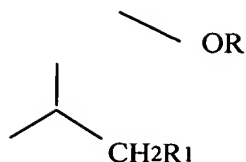
or (2)



wherein R^1 and R^2 are independently hydrogen, or a linear or branched alkyl group having about 1 to about 5 carbon atom, or mixtures thereof;

or a cyclohexyl derivative according to the following general formula



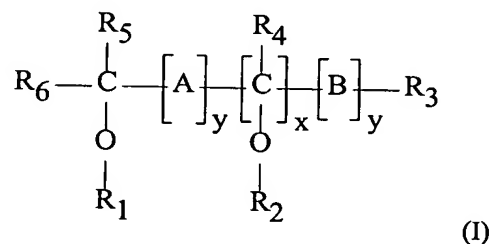


wherein R represents -H, a C₁-C₅ linear or branched alkyl group, a C₁-C₅ alkenyl group, a C₁-C₅ alkoxy group or a C₁-C₅ acyloxy group, R₁ represents -H, or a linear or branched alkyl group having from about 1 to about 5 carbon atoms, with the exception of compound wherein both R and R₁ are hydrogen, or mixtures thereof;

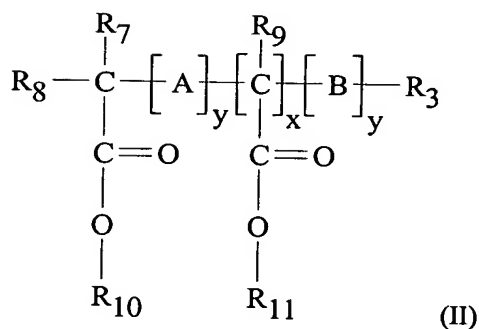
or a mixture thereof.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The article according to claim 1, wherein the cooling agent is a menthyl lactate, menthone glycerol ketal, menthoxypropanediol, ethyl menthane carboxamide, methyl-(N,2,3 tri-methyl)-2-isopropyl butanamide, 2-propenil cyclohexanol, cyclohexanol 5-methyl-2-(1 methyl ethenyl) or mixtures thereof and preferably is menthyl lactate.
5. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The article according to claims 1, ~~2 or 3~~, which comprises on at least a portion of the article from about 0.01 gm⁻² to about 300 gm⁻² of a cooling agent or a mixture thereof.
6. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The article according to claims 1, ~~2 or 3~~, further comprising a delivery system for containing and delivering the cooling agent to at least a portion of the skin and/or mucosal surface of the mammal wearing the article.
7. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The article according to claim 6, wherein the delivery system is an emollient-containing composition comprising from about 0.1% to about 99.9%, by weight of the cooling agent or mixture thereof, and from about 99.9% to about 0.1%, by weight of the emollient or mixture thereof.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The article according to claim 6, wherein the delivery system comprises an emollient typically selected from the group consisting of petroleum-based; sucrose ester fatty acids; polyethylene glycol and derivatives thereof; fatty acid ester type; alkyl ethoxylate type; fatty acids, particularly those having from about 8 to about 28 carbon atoms in their fatty chain; fatty acid ester ethoxylates; fatty alcohol type; polysiloxane type; propylene glycol and derivatives thereof; glycerine and derivatives thereof, including glyceride, acetoglycerides, and ethoxylated glycerides of C₈-C₂₈ fatty acids; spermaceti and other waxes; fatty alcohol ethers, particularly those having from about 8 to about 28 carbon atoms in their fatty chain, propoxylated fatty alcohols; other fatty esters of polyhydroxy alcohols; lanolin and its derivatives; kaolin and its derivatives; sorbitol and its derivative; trihydroxy stearin; ester derivatives and mixtures thereof.
9. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The article according to claim 6, wherein the delivery system comprises an alcohol, ester or acid derivative of following formulae or mixtures thereof:



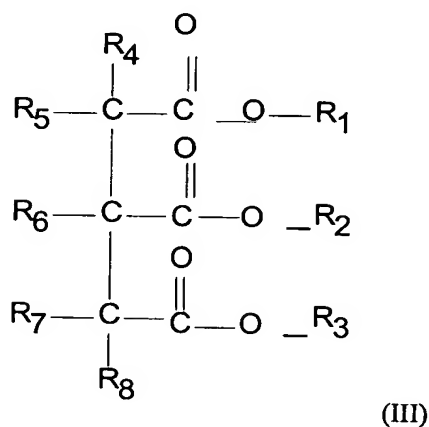
or



wherein R₁ and each R₂ independently are an acyl group with from about 2 to about 22 carbon atoms, or an alkyl, alkenyl, arylalkyl, hydroxyalkyl group with from about 1 to

about 24 carbon atoms or hydrogen, whereby preferably at least one of R₁ and R₂ is such an acyl group; R₃, R₄, R₅, R₆, R₇, R₈, and R₉ are independently an alkyl, alkenyl, arylalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxy groups of from 1 to 24 carbon atoms, hydroxy group or hydrogen group; R₁₀ and R₁₁ are independently an alkyl, alkenyl, arylalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxy groups of from about 2 to about 24 carbon atoms, hydroxy group or hydrogen group; A and B are independently a C₁-C₆ linear or branched alkylene, alkyl, alkenylene, alkoxyethylene, alkoxy, hydroxyalkylene, hydroxyalkyl groups; the values of x are independently from 0 to about 15; the values of y are independently 0 or 1,

or



wherein in (III) R₁, R₂ and R₃ are independently an acyl, alkyl or alkenyl or hydroxyalkyl group with from 1 to 22 carbon atoms, and R₄, R₅, R₆, R₇ and R₈ are independently selected from the group consisting of C₁-C₁₀ linear or branched alkyl, acyl, alkenyl, hydroxyalkyl or alkoxy groups, hydroxy, chloride, bromide, amine or hydrogen.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The article according to claim 9, wherein the delivery system comprises triethyl citrate, acetyl tributyl citrate, triacetyl citrate, O acetyl triethyl citrate, polyethylene glycol and/or propylene glycol.
11. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The article according to ~~any of the preceding~~ claims 1, 2 or 3, wherein the article comprises a wearer-facing surface, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein at least a portion of the wearer-facing surface comprises the cooling agent.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The article according to ~~any of the preceding~~ claims 1, ~~2 or 3~~, wherein the article is breathable, typically has a water vapour ~~beathability~~ breathability of higher than about $100 \text{ (g) / (m}^2\text{/24hrs)}$.
13. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The article according to ~~any of the preceding~~ claims 1, ~~2 or 3~~, wherein said article is a clothing, bandage, thermal pad, acne pad, cold pad, compress, surgical pad/dressing, protective bedding cover, gloves, socks, perspiration pad, shoe insole, shirt insert, animal litter, panty liner, feminine napkin, incontinent pad, diaper, tampon, interlabial pad, breast pad, or human or animal waste management device.
14. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The article according to ~~any of the preceding~~ claims 1, ~~2 or 3~~, wherein said article is a hygienic absorbent article comprising a topsheet as a wearer-facing surface, a backsheet as a garment-facing surface and an absorbent core sandwiched between the topsheet and backsheet, said backsheet preferably being a breathable backsheet.
15. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The absorbent article according to claim 14, wherein said breathable backsheet comprises at least one layer selected from an apertured polymeric film or a 2-dimensional planar apertured film.
16. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The absorbent article according to claim 15, wherein said layer is a 2-dimensional planar apertured layer, wherein said apertures have an average diameter of from 150 micrometers to 1 micrometers.
17. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The absorbent article according to claim 15, wherein said layer is an apertured polymeric film, wherein said apertures have an average diameter of from 100 micrometers to 500 micrometers.
18. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The absorbent article according to claim 15, wherein said breathable backsheet comprises at least two layers, a first layer comprising an apertured layer and a second layer comprising a fibrous layer.
19. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The absorbent article according to claim 18, wherein said breathable backsheet comprises at least a first layer of a resilient, three dimensional web which consists of a liquid impervious polymeric film having apertures forming capillaries

which are not perpendicular to the plane of the film but are disposed at an angle of less than 90° relative to the plane of the film, and at least a second breathable layer being a fibrous nonwoven web made from synthetic fibers having a basis weight of less than about 40 g/m².